CONJUNCTIONS

Lesson 38

1. Joining Noun Phrases

Three conjunctions are used for joining noun phrases (nouns or nouns with accompanying modifiers):

\[\begin{align*}
\text{ao} & \quad \text{and} \\
\text{ma} & \quad \text{and, with} \\
\text{ke} & \quad \text{or}
\end{align*}\]

For the most part, ao and ma can be used interchangeably when carrying the sense 'and':

Uota mai te aama ao te neera.
Uota mai te aama ma te neera.

Bring me a hammer and nail.

A nakon te titooa Tiaon ao Meere.
A nakon te titooa Tiaon ma Meere.

John and Mary went to the store.

Notice that in the above example with uota mai, the transitive verb takes the ending expected for singular objects, as it is immediately followed by the singular article te.

When a list of two or more items is given, linked by ao, (which occurs more frequently than its counterpart in English 'and', serving somewhat as we would us a comma) the last item is preceded by ao ai ..., meaning in effect, 'and finally...':

A roko Tiaon ao Meere ao ai Tawita.
John, Mary and David came.

ke, 'or', functions like its English counterpart when joining noun phrases:

Anganai te been ke te bentira.
Give me a pen or a pencil.
2. Joining Sentential Structures

a. Joining two verbs or adjectives

Sentences like 'He is tall and handsome' may be thought of as a shortened form for two sentences: 'he is tall' + 'He is handsome.' In Kiribati the simplest form of this sentence is exactly like the two sentences joined by ao:

E kakaianau ao e tikiraoi.
He is tall and he is handsome.

Corresponding to the English shorter form however, is a Kiribati one in which the second subject pronoun may be left out, or at least replaced, by n:

E kakaianau ma n tikiraoi.
He is tall and handsome.

In this form only ma is used, for if ma is used with the subject pronoun, it is understood in the sense 'but':

E kakaianau ma e tikiraoi.
He is tall but he is handsome.

This works in basically the same way when two verbs are joined, except that when two verbs occur one after the other, the interpretation of "first ... afterwards" is available:

E biri ao e tang.
He ran and (afterwards) he cried.

When both actions are at the same time, the form replacing the second subject pronoun with n is used (with or without the ma):

E biri (ma) n tang.
He ran and cried.

When joining sentential structures, ma followed by a subject pronoun is generally understood as meaning 'but':

E biri ma e tang.
He ran but he cried.
b. When the second of two sentential structures is the object of the verb

Sentences like 'I think(that) he will go' or 'I saw that you were ready' or 'I hope that he will come' fall into this category. Such subordinate sentences are preceded by b'a 'that':

I taku b'a ko na nako.
I think (that) you will go.

Au kaantaininga b'a ti na kaaitiboo ningaabong.
I hope (that) we'll meet tomorrow.

I ataia b'a ko a tia n roko.
I knew that you had come.

Notice in the last example that the transitive verb ending has the form used when the object is not present in the sentence, equivalent to:

I saw it that you had come.

With the same meaning, it is also possible to use the object pronoun corresponding to the subject of the subordinate sentence in this type of situation:

I ataiko b'a ko a tia n nako.

c. Joining two simple sentences

The same set of conjunctions are used to join simple sentences except that in this case ma means 'but':

I a tia n nakon te titooa ao I a manga oki.
I went to the store and I returned again.

E a tia n nakon te titooa ma e tuai n oki.
He went to the store but he hasn't returned yet.

E na kabooaki te iriko ke N na nako n akawa.
I'll buy some meat or I'll go fishing.

(String will be bought some meat)

Sentences joined by ao frequently end with naba 'still, also':

I a tib'a roko ao ko a nako naba.
I just arrived and you left (also).
A. Replace the plus sign (+) linking the noun phrases in the following sentences with an appropriate conjunction (ao, ma, ke):


1. Anganai am boki + am been.
   give me book pen

2. I tangira te ika + te iriko.
   want fish meat

3. Anganai naba te biti + te taaba.
   give me knife bush knife

4. Katuka naba am boki iaon te taibora + iaana.
   put your book on the table under it

5. A oki mm'aane + aiine man te m'aiee.
   return men women from the dance

6. E kabooa te tioka + te kariki.
   bought sugar bread

7. I konaa ni katanga te kita + te ukirere.
   can play guitar ukelele

8. I kana te ben + te ika.
   eat coconut fish

9. Noora te kiing iaon te kainiwene + ni b'aka iaana.
   see key on bed fall under it

10. E wareka te boki + te nutibeeba.
    read book newspaper

11. Nakomai ikai + raom akanne.
    come here your friend there

12. Ti na oki ngai + ngaia.
    return him

13. Ko tangira te been + te bentira?
    want pen pencil

    play your friend

15. E nakonako Taom + te kamea.
    walk dog

16. E arii Teken + ana kamea.
    go together dog

17. E a tia n roko te kaibuke + te waa.
    come ship canoe

18. E matuu Rakera + raona n te ruu.
    sleep his friend in the room

19. I a tia n roko i Abemama + i Beru naba.

20. Katuka ikai am boki + am been.
    put here book pen
B. Convert the following pairs of sentences into single sentences by using the appropriate conjunctions:

ex: E kakaianau. E tikiraoi. =
    E kakaianau ao e tikiraoi.
or: E kakaianau ma n tikiraoi.

1. E rietaata te auti. E buubura.
   tall            house    big

2. E uareereke. E mronmron.
   little          round

   red              his hair    color of gold

   oily             tasty       flesh of k.o. fish

5. E m'arairai irana. E rorooo.
   long             her hair    black

   mild mannered    kind that man

   angry            dangerous    lion

   fat               little       his body

   strong           healthy

10. E marurung. E mm'am'makuri te aiiie arei.
    healthy         working      woman

    long             high         canoe

    high             branchy      my breadfruit tree

    light            fast         canoe of my father

14. E m'arairai. E tabaabaa irananatun tinau.
    long             bushy        hair of head my mother

15. I kabooa te kaa ae maawawa. E raneanea.
    buy               car          green    shiny

16. I kukurei iroun te aomata ae nimamanei.
    happy            toward        the person mild mannered kind to me

17. I mooi n te ran ae e itiaki. E m'aitoro.
    drink            water        drawn    cold

18. I kana te bwerena ae e raababa. E matenten.
    eat              biscuit      wide      thick

    run               cries to    his mother

    fly               bird         cries
C. Link the sentences of set B using a different conjunction.

D. Link the sentences which follow with appropriate conjunctions:

ex: I taku + ko na nako. = I taku b'a ko na nako.

1. I a tib'a roko + ko nangi nako naba.
   just come about to go
2. E kataia n tabekia + e aki mwemwe.
   try lift it raised
   stop by your friend that
4. Ko matuu ikai + ko matuu ikekei?
   sleep here there
5. Ko kana te ika + ko kana te iriko?
   eat fish meat
6. E roko ikai + e a tia ni manga nako.
   come here again go
7. E a aki nako te kaibuke ngkai + e uruaki.
   leave ship now broken
8. E a nako + e a tangi natina.
   went cried child
   gently lift it don't handle carelessly
10. E a tia n roko te kaibuke + e tuai?
    ship not yet
11. I aki konaa ni koroboki + akea au been.
    can write pen
12. Tai nako + I tangiriko.
    go want you
13. I aki ataia b'a e na iri + e na tiku.
    know he will accompany he will stay
14. Tuangai am b'ai + I a kabooa naba.
    tell me thing buy it
15. Ko tangira te kariki + ko tangira te aoranti?
    want bread orange
    about to go my land it's almost sunset
17. I ataia + ko a tia n nako.
    know you left
18. Au kaantaninga + ko na tiku ikai.
    I hope you will stay here
19. I roko ikai tao uuua + teniu a te tai.
    came here perhaps 2 3 times
20. An tekateka raoi + e a bane ara reirei.
    sit properly finished our lesson
E. Written. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. Do you prefer to sail or to swim.

2. My brother stays in bed and sleeps.

3. The man came home and the woman came home too.

4. The sea was rough but the boat did sail.

5. I told him that he had to leave.

6. She met her husband and all her children too.

7. He said he would be at the store or the post office.

8. You must bring your books or you'll have to leave.

9. I saw that the canoe was about to leave.

10. Visit us with your friends on your way from school.